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ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Work of Medical Inspection

FOR THE YEAR 1944

BY

JAMES C. B. CRAIG

M.D., D.P.H. (Edin.)

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
CHIEF TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER, and
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the
Education Committee.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the School Medical Service for the year 1944.

The unexpected illness and death of Dr. Allan Semple at the end of August was a severe loss to the Department. He had been connected with the School Medical Service for close on thirty years, during the last fourteen of which he held the appointment of Chief School Medical Officer.

His illness coincided with my return after two years in the Services, and thus the work of organisation of the Health Services generally received a serious interruption during the year.

Owing to staffing difficulties the routine examination of the intermediate group was, as in the previous year, entirely suspended. However, the smaller number of routine inspections was compensated for by a high number of special inspections at the School Clinic.

The School Nurses continued to exert a regular supervision over the health and cleanliness of the children, and were responsible for the examination of the eyesight and hearing of the intermediate group, so that no child's educational attainments suffered due to lack of attention to these special defects.

After five years of war-time conditions and rationing there are just grounds for satisfaction in the findings of the nutritional state of the children. When one considers how widespread the state of severe malnutrition among the children of occupied European countries must be, we should be indeed grateful that no such calamity has befallen the child population of this country.

It is encouraging to note a substantial reduction in the number of cases of scabies, a condition which has come to be regarded as a war-time "visitor" associated with evacuation, overcrowding, and bad housing conditions. The energetic campaign, described in previous reports, to keep this condition under control continued on similar lines, and we trust that, with the gradual lessening of war-time measures of living, the prevalence of scabies will show a steady and continued fall in incidence.

The regrettable increase in the number of cases of diphtheria was unfortunate when one considers that the number of school children who had already been immunised was 79 per cent.

One half of the number of cases diagnosed as diphtheria were amongst immunised children, but, though the infecting organism was of the "gravis" or "severe toxic" type, all the cases made a satisfactory and uninterrupted recovery.

The disease amongst the non-immunised children was of a much more severe clinical type and there was one death.

Thus, though immunisation does not completely protect against the risk of infection with diphtheria it lessens and modifies the severity of the disease.

It would therefore be unwise to allow these statistics to act as a deterrent to the enthusiasm of the campaign to render the child population immune against this serious disease.

The number of cases of tuberculosis among school children, though higher than last year, is below the average for the five war-time years.

This is particularly gratifying in view of the severe amount of overcrowding and bad housing conditions which many of the citizens are obliged to endure owing to the acute housing shortage in the City.

It is encouraging to note that accidents which last year were a pre-eminent cause of death among school children show a very marked decrease.

The new Education Act of 1944 has already come into force before this Report goes to Press, and, with it, many sweeping changes will eventually be introduced in the medical care and treatment of school children.

In Carlisle more especially will our Dental and Orthopædic Services require expansion, but these and many other changes must await the return of more settled times, with an easing in the staffing, equipment, and accommodation problems.

In conclusion, I desire to acknowledge my thanks and indebtedness to all the members of the staff—medical, nursing, and clerical—for their continued help and support in maintaining the Services in these difficult times and in the preparation of this report.

The invaluable aid and co-operation of the Education Department, Head Teachers and their staffs, has been most appreciated and helped considerably to lessen our many difficulties and problems.

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. B. CRAIG,

Acting School Medical Officer.

May, 1945.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

School Accommodation	...	...	11,539
Average No. on Rolls	...	...	8,158
Average Attendance	...	...	7,250
No. of "Routine" Inspections	...	...	1,675 (16)
No. of "Special" Inspections...	...	...	3,849 (97)
No. of Re-Inspections	...	...	4,546 (56)
Total No. of Inspections	...	...	10,070 (169)
No. of Children found to require Treatment at the "Routine" Inspections			123 (2)
No. of Parents interviewed at Medical Inspections, "Routine" and "Special"	...	...	2,068 (63)
No. of Visits to Schools by the Assistant School Medical Officers	...	...	124
No. of Visits to Schools by Nurses	...	...	593 (2)
No. of Visits to Homes by Nurses	...	...	1,902 (4)
No. of Teachers examined for appointment and otherwise at the request of the Education Committee	...	...	29
No. of Cases treated at the Clinic	...	...	1,524 (19)
No. of Attendances at Clinic for Treatment	...	...	9,925 (410)
No. of Children examined by School Dentist	...	...	7,299 (119)
No. of Children treated by School Dentist	...	...	2,201 (24)
No. of Children excluded for Verminous Conditions	...	...	316

In this Report where two sets of figures are shown, the first relate to City children plus evacuees, and those in brackets refer to evacuees only.

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

The number of "Routine" inspections was 72 less than in 1943. There was a decrease of 84 in the "Leaver" group, and increases of 8 in the "Entrant" group and 4 in the other "Routine" inspections.

The "Intermediate" group was not examined in any of the schools during the year. The visions of the children in this group were tested by the School Nurses.

16 evacuated children were also examined in the "Routine, Leaver, and Entrant" age groups.

The number of old cases re-examined shows a decrease of 331.

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Defect or Disease.	Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
	No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.
Skin	28 (2)	14	897 (43)	3 (2)
Eye	25	177 (3)	170 (3)	277 (1)
Ear	6	10	119 (4)	16
Nose and Throat	51	341 (4)	200 (8)	38
Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tuberculous) ... ..	...	127 (1)	2	51
Speech ... ..	...	13	...	2
Heart and Circulation	1	84 (1)	3 (1)	12
Bronchitis and other non-tuberculous diseases ... ..	...	118	4	23 (1)
Tuberculosis ... ..	...	7	7	18
Nervous System ... ..	...	3	...	2
Deformities	7	62 (1)	9	7
Other Defects and Diseases (excluding Defects of Nutrition, Dental Diseases, and Uncleanliness)	5	52	728 (31)	80 (5)
Total	123 (2)	1008 (16)	2139 (90)	529 (9)

EXCLUSIONS BY ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS AT SCHOOL AND CLINIC.

Table showing the number of Children excluded by the Assistant Medical Officers at School and Clinic for conditions other than those associated with vermin:—

Scabies	420 (21)
External Eye Diseases	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis and suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10
Other Respiratory Diseases	4
Heart and Circulation	2
Infectious Diseases	31 (3)
Ear, Nose, and Throat Operations	210 (1)
Miscellaneous	47

UNCLEANLINESS.

316 children were excluded from school for verminous conditions during the year. This is a decrease of 47 on the previous year.

The following summary gives the details of these exclusions:—

209 were excluded on one occasion,
60 on two occasions, and
47 on three or more occasions.

The total number of examinations of children in the schools by the School Nurses was 26,626, which included 111 amongst evacuated children from the Newcastle area.

In 15 instances of children who were repeatedly found in a verminous condition the parents were warned by a letter from the Director of Education.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was an increase in the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year; this being most marked in the cases of measles and chickenpox, where 234 and 394 cases were notified as against 57 and 75 during the previous year. The exceptions were whooping cough and mumps, 96 and 89 cases respectively being notified, as compared with 123 and 172 in 1943.

Of the other notifiable diseases the number of cases notified was scarlet fever, 83; and diphtheria, 37. The comparative figures for 1943 being 50 and 6 respectively.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Since the beginning of the year 249 school children received the full course of inoculations. This is a very marked fall in the number immunised; but, owing to the greatly increased numbers of children in the pre-school age group 1—5 years being immunised during the past few years, children are being admitted to school already immunised. Thus the number of school children requiring to be done is correspondingly smaller.

At the end of the year the percentage rate of immunised children amongst the school population was 79, which compares very favourably with previous years.

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

EAR, NOSE, AND THROAT DEFECTS.

202 school children (1 evacuee) received operative treatment under the Authority's scheme for removal of tonsils and adenoids.

In addition, 14 children were admitted to the City General Hospital, 8 of whom received operative treatment for the following conditions:—

Mastoid	...	...	...	2
Proof Puncture both Antra	...	...	...	1
Partial Sub Mucous Resection and removal of Inferior Turbinates	...	...	...	1
Removal of Choanal Polyp.	...	...	...	1
Removal of Bilateral Keratotic Mass	...	...	...	2
Cauterization of Nostril	...	...	...	1

22 sessions were held at the School Clinic, at which 601 (11 evacuees) inspections were made. 29 operation sessions were held at the City General Hospital, at which 210 operations were performed.

MINOR AILMENTS.

The number of cases treated for minor ailments (excluding scabies) at the School Clinic during the year was 1,524 (1,505 City cases and 19 evacuees).

The results of treatment obtained were as follows:—

Cured	...	...	...	1,441 (16)
Improved	...	...	...	5 (3)
Unchanged	...	...	...	—
Ceased attending	...	...	...	31
Incomplete	...	...	...	47

In addition, 521 cases of scabies (498 City and 23 evacuees) attended for advice and treatment.

489 children, including 15 evacuees, suffering from scabies, were treated and remedied at a Treatment Centre at one of the First Aid Posts Decontamination Centres under the personal supervision of the School Nurses.

The particulars of the attendances made by children to the School Clinic are as follows:—

City	...	...	...	9,515
Evacuees	...	...	...	410
				<hr/>
				9,925
				<hr/>

VISION.

The total number of cases examined for defective eyesight was 196, viz., 104 boys and 92 girls. 119 were examined for the first time, viz., 64 boys and 55 girls; while the remaining 77 cases, 40 boys and 37 girls, were re-examinations. Squint was present in 60 cases, viz., 38 boys and 22 girls.

Spectacles were found necessary and prescribed in 182 cases, viz., 95 boys and 87 girls.

In addition, 3 evacuees were examined and found to be suffering from defective vision. Glasses were prescribed in 3 instances.

35 sessions were devoted to examination of the eyes, the average number attending each session being 5.

TUBERCULOSIS.

14 children of school age were notified as suffering from tuberculosis, 7 by the Assistant School Medical Officer, and 7 by medical practitioners, as follows:—

Localisation.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Lungs	3	3	6
Bones and Joints	2	...	2
Abdomen	1	...	1
Glands ... ..	...	4	4
Meninges ... ..	...	1	1
Totals	6	8	14

Notification of Tuberculosis, 1944.

Ages	5—10	10—15	Total Notifica- tions.
Pulmonary—			
Males ...	2	1	3
Females ...	2	1	3
Non-pulmonary—			
Males ...	1	2	3
Females ...	2	3	5
Totals	7	7	14

44 children of school age, viz., 22 boys and 22 girls, were referred as new cases to the Tuberculosis Officer; 6 of these were notified cases, 23 were suspects, and 15 were contacts. Of the notified cases, 2 were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Of the others, 5 were found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, while 30 were free from evidence of the disease.

The number of new cases among school children added to the Tuberculosis Dispensary Register was 14, i.e., 7 pulmonary and 7 non-pulmonary. The pulmonary cases were 3 boys and 4 girls, the non-pulmonary cases 3 boys and 4 girls.

The total number of attendances made by school children to the Dispensary during the year was 179.

The following table shows the amount of Institutional Treatment given :—

	City General			
	Blencathra.	Hospital.	Oswestry.	Total.
In Institution, 1st Jan.	—	—	—	—
Admitted during year	1	4	4	9
Discharged during year	1	4	2	7
In Institution, 31st Dec.	—	—	2	2
Average stay (days) of patients discharged during year	34	22	15	—

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

The number of children inspected during the year was 7,299, not including 333 who were re-inspected. As the comparatively small number of evacuee children remaining were no longer in groups, but in various schools under the Carlisle Authority, the services of another dental surgeon to attend to the requirements of these children were not called upon. Hence the total figures given last year included the work of 47 half-day sessions not included this year.

The total number found to require treatment was 3,027, and the number actually treated, 2,201, i.e., 73 per cent.

Attendances made by the children for treatment were 3,267. 77 half-days were devoted to inspection and 354 to treatment.

1,607 teeth were filled and a total of 2,732 teeth extracted, the vast majority under a general anæsthetic which was administered on 1,515 occasions. In addition, 172 other operations were performed.

5 children were referred for orthodontic treatment and had the necessary work carried out with good results.

Not included in these figures is the work done for pre-school children, 23 of whom received treatment.

The importance of extending the facilities for treatment in this age group, and encouraging the use thereof is stressed in schemes for a more comprehensive dental service, and rightly so, but it would be wise not to be over optimistic as to either the number for whom treatment will be accepted, or the number for whom treatment can be successfully carried out.

It is encouraging, however, to record a gradual improvement in the attitude of parents towards conservative treatment of both the temporary and permanent teeth, and it is to be hoped that when adequate facilities for treatment are available after school leaving age many more young people will benefit from the continuation of dental attention than have done in the past.

The figures relating to dental defects will be found in tabular form on page 21.

OPEN-AIR SCHOOL FOR DELICATE CHILDREN.

At the beginning of the year 100 children were in attendance and 45 were admitted during the year, giving a total of 145 children dealt with as follows:—

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	28
Pretubercular	...	...	...	...	6
Bronchitis and Asthma	...	...	...	...	25
Disorder of Nutrition	...	...	...	...	14
Anæmia and Debility	...	...	...	...	42
Chorea	...	...	...	...	1
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	11
Myopia and Partial Blindness	...	...	...	...	3
Epilepsy	...	...	...	...	1
Deformities and Paralysis	...	...	...	...	12
Diseases of Ear, Nose, and Throat	...	...	...	...	2

CRIPPLING DEFECTS AND ORTHOPÆDICS.

I am indebted to the Cripples' Clinic Committee for the following information relating to their activities in 1944:—

At the beginning of the year there were 177 cases on the Register. 42 new cases have been added, and 19 cases which had completed their treatment have been deleted, leaving 200 still on the Register. The following are the conditions for which new cases were treated:—

Posturals	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	36

and the following is the classification of the 158 old cases still on the Register:—

Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	8
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	7
T.B. Joints	...	...	...	...	...	4
Posturals	...	...	...	...	...	32
Congenital Deformities	...	...	...	...	...	21
Erb's Palsy	...	...	...	...	...	5
Spastic	...	...	...	...	...	19
Flat Foot and Knock Knee	...	...	...	...	...	24
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	38

3,425 attendances were recorded at the Clinic, and 291 visits were paid by the Orthopædic Nurse to the homes of children. 12 splints were provided, 39 plasters were put on, and 1,740 ultra-violet ray treatments given. 15 cases received institutional treatment at Oswestry, involving 105 weeks' in-patient maintenance.

MILK-IN-SCHOOLS SCHEME.

The average number of children on one day availing themselves of the scheme has been 4,827. This figure includes an average of 2,188 children who received two-thirds of a pint of milk per day.

FEEDING OF NECESSITOUS CHILDREN.

Month	Number of Meals Provided on an average day during quarter			Number of Individual Children Fed on an average day during quarter		
	Dinner	Milk	Total	Dinner	Milk	Total
Jan.—April ...	9	209	218	9	111	120
May—Sept. ...	12	152	164	12	83	95
Oct.—Dec. ...	9	136	145	9	75	84

CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

CARLISLE COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

The Carlisle Council of Social Service enabled 26 children to enjoy a holiday at the Silloth Convalescent Home during the year.

A limited amount of clothing has been supplied during the year, but cases of families of serving men have been passed on to the Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen's Families' Association.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY
TO CHILDREN.

The Local Officer of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to children afforded help in the following cases referred to her:—

Cases recorded	...	...	...	...	11
Homes visited	...	...	...	...	11
Subsequent visits	...	...	...	...	49

JOHN ROBINSON-HARRISON MEMORIAL FRESH-AIR
FORTNIGHT HOME.

The John Robinson-Harrison Memorial Fresh-Air Fortnight Home, Allonby, which was open ten months in the year, provided 47 children with a fortnight's

holiday there, and acknowledgments are tendered to the members of the Carlisle Rotary Club for the conveyance of the children to and from Allonby.

CUMBERLAND, WESTMORLAND, AND CARLISLE VOLUNTARY
MENTAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

8 children, between the ages of 7 and 16, have been referred to this Association during 1944 by the Medical Officer of Health. 3 are children who have never attended, or have been excluded from attending school. Of these, 1 boy has been accepted for the Royal Albert Institution, Lancaster, and is to go within the next few months, another boy has been accepted for Dovenby, and a girl is to go to Dovenby when there is a vacancy. The other 5 are children who have now left school.

Children certified under Mental Deficiency Acts during 1944.

1 boy has been certified during the year and admitted to St. Francis School, Buntingford. 2 children, under 7 years of age, have also been certified. 1 was admitted to Milnthorpe and the other was placed under guardianship in a private household.

Carlisle Children between the ages of seven and sixteen in Certified Institutions.

8 children are in Certified Institutions. 2 girls and 1 boy are at Dovenby, 2 boys and 1 girl are at the Royal Albert Institution, 1 boy is at Milnthorpe, and 1 boy is at St. Francis Home, Buntingford. In addition 1 child is certified and under guardianship in her own home. 1 boy who was at Milnthorpe died during the year. 1 girl was transferred from Allerton Priory Special School to Durranhill House, on reaching the age of sixteen.

Children who have attended school.

5 children have been referred on leaving school and they have all been visited. 3 of these obtained employ-

ment and seem to be working steadily, 1 is working with his father, and the other has had many jobs but does not hold any of them for very long.

Excluded from school as Ineducable.

There are 12 children who have never attended school or who have been excluded from school. 2 of these children have been accepted as election cases for the Royal Albert Institution, and 1 has been accepted for Dovenby. Another girl is to go to Dovenby when there is a vacancy.

BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE, AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

Apart from the Open-air School there are no certified schools or classes for exceptional children locally.

3 children attend certified schools for the blind, 4 children attend certified schools for the deaf and dumb, and 1 blind child has been discharged from a Special School as ineducable and is awaiting certification under the Mental Deficiency Act.

3 partially blind children were in attendance at the H.K. Campbell Open-air School, and 3 attended the Public Elementary Schools. There are no special classes for dull or backward children.

6 high-grade feeble-minded children attend the Public Elementary Schools and 2 do not attend school.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

49 boys and 1 girl were referred for certification of fitness for employment under the Bye-laws in respect of employment of children and street trading, and 48 were found to be fit for employment.

EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS.

29 candidates for appointment as teachers were examined, all of whom were recommended.

FOLLOWING UP.

1,902 visits to the homes of children found defective were made by the School Nurses during the year, this included 4 visits to the billets of children evacuated from the Newcastle district.

DEATHS OCCURRING IN SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Accidents	...	...	...	...	3
Rheumatic Endocarditis	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	2
Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	2
Acute Leukæmia	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1
Mitral Stenosis	...	...	...	...	1
Miliary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Rheumatism	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					17
					—

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

The number of children medically inspected in "Routine" age groups at the two Secondary Schools is indicated in the accompanying table.

In addition 97 girls at the High School and 66 boys at the Grammar School, who had previously been found defective, were re-examined, making a total of 445 children inspected. In each school there was also a survey of all children over the age of 12 years.

Age	under 9	9	10 & 11	12	13 & 14	15	Over 15	Total
High School ...	13	11	43	18	9	44	4	142
Grammar School ...	7	5	39	29	4	55	1	140
Totals ...	20	16	82	47	13	99	5	282

Nutrition—Secondary Schools.

	Boys	%	Girls	%	Total	%
No. examined	140	...	142	...	282	...
Excellent	48	34.3	29	20.4	77	27.3
Normal	80	57.1	108	76.1	188	66.7
Below normal	12	8.6	5	3.5	17	6.0
Bad ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...

Teeth—Secondary Schools.

	Boys	%	Girls	%	Total
No. examined	140	...	142	...	282
Sound	115	82.1	111	78.2	226
1—4 Carious	25	17.9	31	21.8	56
Over 4 Carious ... ..	...	...	...	...	...

Vision—Secondary Schools.

	No. examined	Good 6/6	Medium 6/9—6/12	Bad 6/18—6/60
Boys	140	116	13	11
Girls	142	110	21	11
Totals	282	226	34	22

Excluding Vision and Teeth the other defects found at the Secondary Schools numbered:—

Grammar School	...	...	...	7
High School	...	...	...	46
				<hr/>
				53
				<hr/>

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.
MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT
RETURNS.**

TABLE I.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(1) Number of Inspections:

Entrants	...	...	...	808	(8)
Second Age Group	...	...	...	—	(—)
Third Age Group	...	...	...	792	(8)
				<hr/>	<hr/>
			Total ...	1600	(16)
				<hr/>	<hr/>

(2) Number of other Routine Inspections *75 (—)

Grand Total ... 1675 (16)

*This figure is comprised of children in (1) Nursery Class
and (2) War-time Nurseries.

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and

Re-inspections 8395 (153)

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected
during the Year in the Routine Age Groups.

Number of Children Inspected.	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1600 (16)	263 (4)	16·4 (25·0)	1185 (11)	74·1 (68·8)	149 (1)	9·2 (6·2)	3 ...	·2 ...

TABLE III.

Group I.—Minor Ailments.

Total number of Defects treated or under
treatment during the year under the
Authority's Scheme 2751 (40)

Group II.—Treat- ment of Defective Vision and Squint	Under the Authority's Scheme	Group III.—Treat- ment of Defects of Nose and Throat	Under the Authority's Scheme
Errors of Refraction (including squint) ...	199 (3)	Received Operative Treatment ...	210 (1)
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I) ... ..	...	
Total ...	199 (3)	Received other Forms of Treatment ...	6 (1)
No. of Children for whom Spectacles were			
(a) Prescribed ...	185 (3)	Total number Treated	216 (2)
(b) Obtained ...	128 (3)		

TABLE IV.

Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist—				
(a) Routine age-groups	...	...	6822	(90)
(b) Specials	...	...	477	(29)
(c) Total (Routine and Specials)	...		7299	(119)
<hr/>				
(2) Number found to require treatment			3027	(57)
(3) Number actually treated...	...		2201	(24)
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	...	...	3267	(71)
(5) Half-days devoted to:—				
Inspection	...	77	(—)	
Treatment	...	354	(—)	
Total	—	—	431	(—)
(6) Fillings:—				
Permanent Teeth	1591	(33)		
Temporary Teeth	16	(2)		
Total	—	—	1607	(35)
(7) Extractions:—				
Permanent Teeth	613	(4)		
Temporary Teeth	2119	(21)		
Total	—	—	2732	(25)
(8) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions				
	...	...	1515	(15)
(9) Other Operations:—				
Permanent Teeth	172	(1)		
Temporary Teeth	—	(—)		
Total	—	—	172	(1)

In addition to these inspections 333 children were re-inspected during the year, of whom 125 were found to require treatment.

TABLE V.

Verminous Conditions.

(1) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses or other authorised persons	7	
(2) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons	26626	(111)
(3) Number of <i>individual</i> children found unclean	1008	(5)
(4) Number of <i>individual</i> children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921...	Nil	
(5) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:—		
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	6	
(b) Under School Attendance Bye-laws	Nil	

TABLE VI.

Blind and Deaf Children.

Number of totally or almost totally blind and deaf children who are *not* at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs. The return should relate to all such children including evacuees resident in the Authority's area.

	At a Public Elementary School.	At an Institution other than a Special School.	At no School or Institution.
	1	2	3
Blind Children ...	Nil	Nil	1
Deaf Children ...	Nil	Nil	Nil

